Appointment of a Foreign Merchant Bank for 'Bull-Dog' Issue

2445. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since taken a decision to appoint some foreign merchant bank as the lead manager for the proposed maiden bull-dog issue of Pounds 50 million by a Government of India Undertaking; if so, what are the terms and conditions thereof;

(b) by when the issue is likely to be floated in the London market; and

(c) whether Government agency which will handle the issue of the bonds in the London market has also been decided, and if so; what are the particulars thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) A place has been obtained through a foreign merchant bank in the queue maintained by Bank of England for a possible issue by an Indian Institution. It is not known when the turn will come and whether an issue would in fact be made having regard to the market condition prevailing at that time.

Holding company for Public Sector Undertakings

2446. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is actively pursuing a proposal to create an 'Umbrella-type' of holding company for public sector undertakings engaged in trading of agricultural or industrial raw materials to make state trading a "potential" instrument for speeding up the programme of country's economic growth;

(b) if so, what are its broad features; and

(c) by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) There is no such proposal at present under the consideration of the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Loans under the DRI Scheme Disbursed in Andhra Pradesh

2447. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO:

PROF. (MRS.) ASIMA CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the target for small loans under DRI scheme has been achieved in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details for each bank in this regard;

(c) whether Government are aware that some of the banks are insisting on security for these loans;

(d) whether Government are also aware of the difficulties being faced by the poorer sections of society to avail of this laudable scheme; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (e) Under the Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) Scheme the public sector banks have to attain a level of 1 per cent of their total advances as at the end of the previous year. No State-wise targets have been stipulated under DRI Scheme. However in the State of Andhra Pradesh the total DRI advances as at the end of December, 1983 constituted 1.3 per cent of the total advances outstanding as at the end of the previous year. According to the guidelines of DRI Scheme the beneficiaries are eligible for the benefits of the scheme even if they have no tangible security.

The Reserve Bank of India oversee the Scheme to ensure that guidelines issued by it are being adhered to by the public sector banks. The banks are also required to ensure that the targets assigned to them for lending under DRI Scheme are met and the persons belonging to the weaker sections of the society, for whom the Scheme has been designed, are able to avail of the benefits under the scheme.

Posts of Chairman and Managing Director in Public Sector Undertakings held by I.A.S. Officers

2448. DR. SHANTI G. PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state what are the names of public sector undertakings in which the top posts like that of Chairman and Managing Director are held by persons from I.A.S. Cadre and for how long they are holding of these posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): According to available information the posts of Managing Director, Food Corporation of India and Managing Director, North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation are held by officers from IAS cadre on deputation basis and they are holding these posts from 16-8-1983 and 15-12-1981 respectively.

Withdrawal of Excise Duty on Ornaments

2449. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the excise duty on ornaments have recently been withdrawn by Government; and

(b) if so, what are reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Ornaments made of gold or silver manufactured by goldsmiths or silversmiths were already exempt *inter alia*, if in their manufacture, no power is used. By a notification dated 1-8-1985 this exemption has been made unconditional.

(b) The latest decision will help large scale manufacture of ornaments and modernisation of the small scale units, preparing these units for greater participation in the field of exports.

Unlicensed Cultivation of Opium

2450. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to bring forward a legislation to ban unlicensed cultivation of opium in the country, and

(b) if not, how do Government propose to curb illegal cultivation of opium and to deal with the drug traffickers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Cultivation of opium is permitted in notified tracts in the three poppy growing states, names—Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan on the authority of licences issued in this behalf. Unlicensed cultivation of opium poppy is an offence under the relevant Narcotic Laws. A draft comprehensive legislation on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances *inter alia* providing deterrent punishment for drug offences, including offences relating to unlicensed cultivation of opium poppy is at an advanced stage of finalisation for introduction in Parliament.

Additional Credit Facilities by Banks to Customers

2451. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(b) if so, what are the details in this Reserve Bank had advised banks not to grant additional credit facilities to a customer already having credit limits with another bank; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?